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sue experiment further, and with the able assistance of Mr. Joseph Zentmayer, whose zeal for the improvement of the microscope has induced him to undertake the rather troublesome task of preparing the prisms, it will soon be ascertained whether or not any material advantage can be gained, by adopting a different plan of cutting them.

NOTES.

Our readers are doubtless aware that Congress at the last session made an appropriation of \$50,000 for Arctic exploration, with the promise that the scientific operations of the expedition were to be prescribed by the National Academy of Sciences. Captain Hall was appointed by the President of the United States to command the expedition in question, and a commission of the National Academy, recommended by Professor Henry are to act in concert with him, and prepare a manual of scientific inquiry for the use of the expedition, which will, undoubtedly, interest a large circle of readers when published.

Mr. A. Hyatt has been appointed Professor of Palæontology at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Mr. E. S. Morse has been chosen Professor of Comparative Anatomy and Zoology at Bowdoin College, and has been appointed Lecturer in the same branch at the Maine Agricultural College. Dr. A. S. Packard, jr., is to lecture on Economic Entomology at the same institution. Mr. B. K. Emerson has recently been elected Professor of Geology at Amherst College, the chair filled for so many years by Dr. Edward Hitchcock, Senior.

Chicago offers a new publication for general patronage, under the title of the "American Journal of Microscopy." The first number, for November, is of quarto size and contains sixteen pages. The Journal is to be published monthly, by GEORGE MEAD & Co., 182 South Clark Street, Chicago. Mr. Mead is the editor. Subscriptions at \$1.00 a year are solicited, and contributions on microscopical and kindred subjects are requested from all parts of the world.

Dr. Hagen has recently returned from Europe, having purchased, through funds furnished by a lady in Boston, for the Cambridge Museum, a Parisian collection of weevils of great extent and value. We are glad to know that he has brought over his own unrivalled collection of Neuroptera. Its presence in this country is most fortunate for this department of entomology.

The addition to the building for the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Cambridge, at an expense of upwards of \$60,000, is rapidly going up. Professor Agassiz has returned to Cambridge with restored health, and with new plans for the enlargement of his Museum.

The Lyceum of Natural History of New York has lately started forwards with renewed vigor, and now issues its "Proceedings," as well as "Annals." Three signatures of the "Proceedings" (from pages 1 to 44), have been received, and contain abstracts of several interesting papers read at the meetings in April and May last.

Gradually the unpublished results of the labors of Dr. T. W. Harris are being given to the public. Mr. P. R. Uhler, of Baltimore, has ready for publication by the Boston Society of Natural History, descriptions of the Hemiptera of the Harris Entomological collection.

Congress is about to print an entomological report by Townend Glover, the entomologist of the Agricultural Department. It will form an exceedingly useful work, and will deserve the widest circulation.

The well-known Paris dealer in insects, M. Deyrolle, took flight to London with his immense stock of insects, before Paris was actually invested.

Mr. J. A. McNiell, who has made two expeditions to Central America, is now in Philadelphia preparing for a third Archæological Excursion to Nicaragua.

Prof. O. C. Marsh of Yale College, has just returned, with his party, from the Rocky Mountains. The Expedition started in June last.

All our French exchanges, months ago, were suspended.



ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A. D. H., Tuscaloosa, Ala.—The larva taken from oak wood is the Oak-tree Borer (*Xyleutes robiniae*), one of the silk worm family (*Bombycidae*). It often does damage to the red oak, though the moth, a large ash gray species, is comparatively rare.

C. E., Cincinnati.—A light dredge, such as is described on p. 269 and figured on p. 274, Vol. iii. of the Naturalist, will answer your purpose. A stout clothes line will do for a rope; with a five-pound window weight or fishing lead to sink the dredge. In sounding, use a stout fishing line, with a hollowed two-pound lead weight tied to the end, the hollow to be filled with soap. Fathoms can be measured off with strips of red tape tied in the cord. Look out for minute worms and small crustacea, such as the water fleas, and especially the larger shelled forms, such as *Lymnadia*, *Estherea*, etc.

E. S. M., Mitchell, Ind. Your photograph is that of *Dynastes Tityus*, male. A pair would be very desirable for the Museum of the Academy.

H. G., Detroit.—We requested an answer to your question from a physiologist of the highest standing, and have received the following in reply: "The subject is a very important one, as experts are often called upon to decide whether a given blood-stain is or is not human. Many enthusiastic microscopists have full confidence that nothing is easier than to decide the matter by looking through their instruments, until they find themselves cross-questioned by a sharp lawyer.

Human blood is easily distinguished from that of many mammals, birds, reptiles and fishes, by the size and form of the globules; and tests, both chemical and microscopic, have been proposed for distinguishing human blood from that of some of the domesticated animals. In medico-legal cases, such, if good, would be of the utmost importance, but it is generally conceded that none exist which can be admitted as absolute. If an observer had given him blood from man and the dog, without knowing any circumstance which would lead to an opinion as to their origin, there is no valid sign which would justify him in going into court and saying which was and which was not human. The test of odor given off when sulphuric acid is added to the blood, however successful it may have once been in the hands of some experts, has not, after many years, come into use, and that of the size and appearance of the globules also fails, as the globules of some of the domesticated animals offer the same characteristics as those of man."